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Report of Dean of Men to President

West virginia University

First Semester-----1924--1925

Feb. 20, 1925

President Frank B. Trotter,
West Virginia University,
Morgantown, W. Va.

Dear President Trotter:

I respectfully submit herewith my report as Dean of Men of West Virginia University for the first semester of the school year 1924-25:

PERSONAL CONTACT AND GUIDANCE

As Dean of Men of West Virginia University I have conceived it to be my chief duty to make every possible effort to assist each individual student in making his adjustments to the institution's environment; to give him guidance and help in his personal problems-social, moral, educational, and occupational. I have sought to know the men intimately, their financial struggles, their social activities, their various ambitions, their discouragements, in fact all those elements that make up life at college, including athletics. To this end I had a brief personal conference with each man of the freshman class soon after his arrival last fall. At the time of this conference each man filled out a personnel record card. These cards are now on file in my office and form a valuable record of the interests, aptitudes, and abilities of the men concerned.

In addition to these conferences with freshmen I have had many interviews with men of other classes in all colleges, some with students who came voluntarily seeking advice, others at the request of landladies, business men, faculty members, police officers, etc. I have investigated all cases of alleged personal delinquency reported to me and dealt with these cases as seemed wise, keeping in mind not only the welfare and future life of the individual concerned but also the obligation to the larger social group.

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<u>Dean of Men</u>

As Dean of Men at West Virginia University I have conceived it to be my duty to make every effort to assist each individual student in making a desirable adjustment to institutional environment; to guide him in his personal, social, moral, educational and vocational problems so far as my office can aid in solving them satisfactorily. Where there is need for referring students with intimate personal problems to other members of the faculty, and particularly to the University Physician, I have cooperated with them intimately.

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Previous to and at the time of the death of Gordon McMillan of the Senior Class I kept in constant touch with him at the infirmary, with his parents on their arrival here, and with the boys of Sigma Chi fraternity who did so much for Gordon and his parents on this occasion I was present also at the funeral which was held in the Sigma Chi Fraternity House.

I have made calls at the University Infirmary and on students confined to their rooms by serious illness, and communicated with parents when necessary.

IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

Since my report to you last June I have worked actively though quietly for the improvement of conditions vitally affecting the welfare of the men of the University. In so doing I have found it necessary to appeal to the Council of the City of Morgantown for a change in the management of a local hotel adjoining a fraternity house. The management was changed and the objectionable conditions removed. I also found it necessary to ask for a change in the management and personnel of a prominent local photograph gallery. This also was done and the place made safe for student patronage. In these and other efforts to improve community conditions, and in the more serious cases of student delinquency, I have had the cooperation of the city council, the city police, the juvenile judge, the police judge, and the State constabulary, with all of whom I have kept in constant touch concerning problems common to the University and the community.

FRESHMAN GUIDANCE CONFERENCES

Regular weekly guidance conferences were established last fall for all men of the freshman classes of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Agriculture, and have been held continously since. The following subjects have been dealt with by specialists drawn from the various faculties of the University and from the city:

The Class Officer System
How to Study
Scholarship and the Use of Books
Social Hygiene
Health
University Regulations
Freshman Intelligence Tests
The Choice of a Life Career
The Purpose of a College Education
If I were a Freshman (Opportunities and Responsibilities)

These conferences will continue during the Second Semester, when they will include some meetings especially designed for the purpose of vocational and vocational guidance. Among the talks already scheduled may be mentioned the following:

The Use of the Library
The Social Sciences
The Physical Sciences
Law
Medicine
Agriculture

CONTACT WITH PARENTS, GUARDIANS, PROSPECTIVE ORGANIZATION, ETC. THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE

During the semester I have written letters of condolence to all young men who have lost either father or mother by death. Where possible I have also seen these students personally. I have corresponded with parents freely and with companies seeking information about the character and habits of former students. I have attended to many requests for information from surety companies, officials of national fraternities, etc. This has been made possible by additional part-time stenographic help provided for my office.

OCCUPATIONAL GUIDANCE

Occupational guidance activities begun two years ago by the preparation and distribution of leaflets on all occupations for which the University offers vocational or pre-vocational training have been continued. During the semester just closed about ten thousand leaflets on occupation have been distributed to students directly or used by

instructors in University classes. That this service is appreciated is evidenced by the large number of students who have called for facts on specific occupations.

SOCIAL HYGIENE

A conservative beginning in guidance is Social Hygiene for men was made this year by the distribution among the men of two hundred copies of the valuable booklet "Social Hygiene", prepared, published and supplied without cost by the Bureau of Venerial Diseases of the State Department of Health cooperating with U. S. Public Health Service.

COOPERATION WITH LOCAL MERCHANTS, BANKS, ETC.

Our office has cooperated with banks and local merchants in extreme cases of irresponsibility by students in the matter of delinquent accounts, bad checks and other irregularities in which there seemed to be some University responsibility.

FRATERNITIES

I have visited fraternities, held conferences with their officers and members, and worked with them in their efforts at improvement. I wish to report that where necessary fraternities have have placed men on the inactive list, strengthened house rules and in other ways brought about improvements. I have cooperated with local fraternities seeking membership in national fraternities and with national officials seeking information about local groups on our campus. Since my last report to you Delta Kappa Psi has been placed on the accredited list by Phi Gamma Delta, Delta Lambda Mu has been organized, Sigma Delta Phi has petitioned Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Delta Lambda has petitioned Phi Delta Theta.

Y.M.C.A.--SOCIAL COMMITTEE--UNIVERSITY DEANCES

I have served as Chairman of the Y.M.C.A. Advisory Board and presided at its meetings, I have served on the Social Committee and

instructors in University clubs. That this service is appreciated is evidenced by the large number of students who have called for lists on specific occupations.

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Y. M. C. A.--SOCIAL COMMITTEE--UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

I have served as Chairman of the Y. M. C. A. Advisory Board and

cooperated with its chairman. Both of these bodies have been active in their respective spheres. In connection with the supervision of the social life of the men I have attended all armory dances during the semester except two. I have also been present at nine parties in fraternity houses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I wish to repeat my recommendations of last year for the construction of a suitable gymnasium for all students and for the construction of dormitories for all freshmen men. I recommend also administrative action looking to the decrease of student illness; a physical examination of all men on entrance; a credit course in personal hygiene open to all students and required of freshmen in all colleges if deemed advisable; the adoption of measures to decrease the precentage of student failures, as for example, the sectioning of classes on the basis of ability, the reduction in the size of freshman classes, provision for coaching teachers, the better ventilation of class rooms, etc. In this connection I recommend the registration of all freshmen a full week before that of upper-classmen. I suggest that this week be devoted to lectures, exercises and other activities designed to supply information concerning the abilities, aptitudes, and interests of individual students, and to assist freshmen in adjusting themselves to their new environment. The giving of freshman intelligence tests and of physical examinations, the filling out of freshman personnel blanks, and the development of closer and more friendly personal relations between students and facultymembers through social, athletic, and religious events, might well be aa part of the program of freshman week. This plan, as a whole or with modifications, has already been practiced with success at the University of Maine, the University of Chicago, the University of Vermont, the University of New Hampshire, and Tufts College.

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I recommend the closer coordination of the activities of religious agencies working with students and an increased emphasis on ethical and character training.

I desire also to call attention to the need for a student loan fund for worthy students of demonstrated ability and character who would otherwise be compelled to postpone or abandon their education. I recommend that a definite sum be set aside for this purpose from state funds if this be legally possible, this fund to be administered by University authorities.

I have already submitted a separate report on the attendance system as established by the Council of Administration and managed by our office.

Respectfully yours,

H.E. Stone

Dean of Men

I recommend the closer coordination of the activities of religious societies working with students and an increased emphasis on ethical and character training.

A matter which calls attention to the need for a student loan fund for worthy students of character and ability and character who wish advantage of religious or moral education. I encourage that a committee be appointed for this purpose from state funds if this temporary shortage can be administered by university authorities.

I have attached a separate report on the attendance system as established by the Council of Administration and managed by our office.

Respectfully yours,

Dean of Men.